(d) by when the said connection will be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF "COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is technically not feasible as the distance involved from Tinsukia Telex Exchange is about 35 Kms.

(d) It is likely to be provided in 1991 when the proposed UHF System is installed.

Higher phone rentals

503. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the phone rentals in India are the highest in the world;

(b) whether such steep rental charges are making the telephone beyond the reach of middle classes and retired people;

(c) what steps are proposed to bring the phones within the reach of the middle classes and the retired people; and

(d) what are the reasons for steadily increasing the rentals and ball charges whereas the technology has made it possible to reduce the charges world-wide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Telephone charges in India are not the highest in the World. The charges for various telecommunication services are higher in a number of countries as compared to those in India.

(b) The tariff for various telecom, facilities has been fixed such that the increase in telephone tariff is below the increase in the wholesale price index.

Even after the increases in tariff from December, 1986 and April 1988 demand from public for Telephone has continued to increase from 44.3 lakhs in Nov., 1986 to 50.6 lakhs by April, 1988 and to 53.3 lakhs by September, 1988.

(c) The policy of the Deptt. has been to increase the number of public telephones so that they are accessible to a larger section of people.

(d) The increase in tariff became necessary primarily to meet the rising operational and maintenance cost of the telephone system and to raise resources for development outlays and introduction of new technologies. The rental has been revised from 1.4.1988 after a lapse of 6 years. While increasing the call charges from December, 1986, the 'limit of free calls admissible in a bimonthly period has been increased from 200 to 275.

Rates of STD calls

504. SHRI **K.V.** THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the delay in reducing the charges for STD calls during night time;

(b) whether the proposal mooted earlier has been abandoned;

(c) whether it is a fact that in all foreign countries different rates are charged for different hours for STD calls; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for the inability of Government to effect such positive changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Technical arrangements have to be made in all the Trunk Auto exchanges and some of the.telephone exchanges also for effecting any change in tariff.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Reduced tariff during night time is already available. Between 7 P.M. and 8

A.M: and throughout the day on National holidays and Sundays, the STD charges are half the normal rates.

Investment and Output Ratio of Top Ten Business Houses

505. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the investment and output ratio of top ten business houses of the country during this fiscal year; and

(b) what was the ratio during the last fiscal year with details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The desired information for the fiscal years 1987-88 and 1988-89 is not available. However, a Statement showing assets, turnover and assets: turnover ratio during 1986-87 (accounting years ending April, 1986 to March, 1987) of companies registered under section 26 of the MRTP Act and belonging to the top ten business houses ranked according to their assets in 1986-87 is annexed.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

SI. No.	Name of the House	Assets	Turnover	Assets: Turnour ratio
1.	Tata	4940	4940	1 : 1.0
2.	Birla	4771	4360	1 :0.9
3.	Reliance	2022	951	1 :-0.5
4.	J.K. Singhania	1427	1143	1 :'0.8
5.	Thapar	1151	1060	1 :0.9
6.	Mafatlal	1050	1231	1 :1.2
7.	Modi	860	1104	1 :1.3
8.	Larsen & Toubro	831	560	1 :0.7
9.	M.A. Chidambaram	808	432	1 : 0.5-
10.	Bajaj	778	847	1 :-l.l

Modernisation and Renovation of Power Stations

506. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main features of the programme formulated by the Central Electricity Authority for modernisation and renovation of hydro power stations;

(b) to what extent this programme has been implemented in States, State wise; and

(c) what is the total expenditure incurred on implementation of these programmes, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) A scheme for renovation and uprating of 49 Hydro Power Stations in the country having a total installed capacity of 8834 MW has been formulated by the Central Electricity Authority. An estimated expenditure of Rs. 278 crores, is expected to yield additional capacity of the order of 507 MW.

(b) and (c) Action has been initiated to prepare project reports for individual units.

New Power Projects

507. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power generation projects set up and functioning in the country during the last three years, Statewise;

(b) the names of places where these projects have been set up;

(c) the quantum of power generated by these projects; and

(d) the total amount of money involved in these projects and total number of staff working in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) The requisite information is given in Annexures